



# STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

## *EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT*

Date: August 17, 2000

**Item 5 – PUBLIC HEARING:** The Board will entertain presentations from the Department of Conservation, the Yuba Goldfields Access Coalition, and other interested parties regarding the administration of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 in Yuba County. This hearing is for information purposes only.

**BACKGROUND:** On December 20, 1999 the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) received a letter from the Yuba Goldfields Access Coalition (Coalition) requesting that the SMGB make a finding that Yuba County, as lead agency for the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA), had failed to take appropriate enforcement actions against several surface mines in the County. The Coalition requested that the SMGB make these findings pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 2774.4. Such a finding by the SMGB would compel the Board to assume some or all of the County's SMARA powers.

The SMGB office and the DOC responded to the County of Yuba and to the Coalition on December 29, 1999, and again, principally, on May 5, 2000. Since that time, there have been directed efforts by the County, the surface mine operators, the DOC, and the Coalition to address issues of SMARA compliance. In his May 5<sup>th</sup> letter to the County, Assistant Director Glenn Stober, Office of Mine Reclamation, indicated that the Director would present to the SMGB a summary of the DOC's views and recommendations concerning Yuba County's efforts to administer and enforce SMARA at the SMGB's July 13<sup>th</sup> regular business meeting. Circumstances required the SMGB to meet in Southern California on that date; therefore, this informational hearing has been scheduled for the Board's August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

During this informational hearing, the SMGB will entertain presentations from the DOC, the Yuba Goldfields Access Coalition, Yuba County, surface mine operators, and any other interested parties wishing to offer comments.

Since this is an informational hearing, the SMGB will not entertain motions for action.

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